[English]

Distribution of Forests Land

5912. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints from the tribal and Adivasi people regarding distribution of land under Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received from time to time from various people including tribals from almost all the States regarding distribution of forest land. These representations mostly pertain to either grant of forest land for agriculture purposes or regularisation of existing encroachments on forest land. As the requisite proposals for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are required to be submitted by the concerned State Governmet, such representations are invariably forwarded to the State Govts. for necessary action. As and when a proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in this regard is received from the State Govt. it is examined expeditiously for final decision. This Ministry has already accorded formal approval to some proposals for regularisation of encroachments in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands over approximately 1,58,704 ha. of forest land.

Wheat Import

5913. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Norms flouted in wheat import" appearing in 'The Statesman', New Delhi dated January 18, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) Government has seen the news item. The allegations made in the news item are not based on facts. Government had taken decision to import wheat after considering all the relevant factors like stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the Public Distribution System/other Welfare Schemes, open market prices etc. in order to augment its availability in the country and to contain its prices. The landed cost of imported wheat would be approximately Rs. 7100 per tonne including cost of Rs. 29 per gunny as against the economic cost of Rs. 6763.80 per tonne for the wheat procured from domestic market at Minimum Support Price. Government has recently decided that the question of imposing restrictions on movement of wheat from one State to another may be left to the concerned States to decide. On their request and, with a view to maximising procurement in the rabi procurement season 1997-98, the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been allowed to impose certain restrictions on movemnt of wheat. The allegation that samples from the Canada shipment have failed the test under provisions of the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, conducted by the Ministry of Food is also incorrect.

Mobilisation of Resources from NRIs

5914. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to undertake census of Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in order to mobilise their vast financial and intellectual resources for the growth purposes; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Census Act, 1948 which extends to whole of India, the Central Government can take a census only in whole or any part of India. Therefore, census of Non-resident Indians living outside India cannot be undertaken.

Banana and Mango Cultivation in Orissa

5915. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to bring about Banana and Mango cultivation in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction in Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of programmes prepared both in the coastal areas and scheduled areas in that State to bring areas under Mango and Banana cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing an integrated scheme on development of temperate, tropical and aride zone fruits which includes banana and mango. The assistance is prvided for production of planting material through establishment of nurseries and tissue culture unit, area expansion and improving productivity.

Besides, State Government has taken compact plantation for banana and mango for which assistance is provided for planting material, plant protection chemical and training of farmers.

[Translation]

Agricultural Projects of U.P.

5916. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal seeking Central assistance for undertaking various agricultural projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A Statement showing list of schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Coorporation to assist the Government of Uttar Pradesh in accelerating agricultural development is enclosed. No proposals for any new scheme have been received from the State Government during the current year.

Statement

List of Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Implementation in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of Schemes
1	2
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Rice.
2.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme - Wheat.
3.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
4.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
5.	Special Jute Development Programme.
6.	National Pulses Development Project.
7.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
8.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
9.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
10.	Balanced and Integrated use of fertiliser.
11.	Development of Fertiliser use in low Consumption & Rainfed Areas.
12.	National Project on Development and use of Bio-Fertilizers
13.	Integrated Seed Development Scheme.
14.	Streamlining of certified Seeds production of important Identified Vegetable Crops.
15.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Integrated Pest Management Centres.
16.	Grants in Aid to States/UTs for Setting/Strengthening of State Bio-Control laboratories under Implementation of Insecticides Act.
17.	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.
18.	Exchange of Farmers within the Country.
19.	Farmers Scientists Interaction.
20.	Training of Women in Agriculture.
21.	State Land Use Board.
22.	Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects.
23.	Soil Conservation in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.
24.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils.
25.	Development of Beekeeping.
26.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
27.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
28.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
29.	Development of Mushroom.